



**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2013
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT**

Location: South Interior Building
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Room: Auditorium (1st Floor)

Agenda

1:00 – 1:10	Welcome and Introductory Remarks; Leadership Update	<i>Anne Castle, Chair, DOI</i>
1:10 – 1:25	NSDI Strategic Plan	<i>Dan Cotter, DHS; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS</i>
1:25 – 1:40	A-16 Implementation Plan	<i>Adrian Gardner, NASA; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS</i>
1:40 – 2:00	HIFLD Proposal (FGDC Alignment/Infrastructure Data)	<i>Dan Cotter, DHS</i>
2:00 – 2:25	Governmental Units and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Report	<i>Tim Trainor, Census Bureau</i>
2:25 – 2:40	Geospatial Platform	<i>Jerry Johnston, DOI</i>
2:40 – 2:45	NGAC Meeting Summary	<i>Jerry Johnston, DOI</i>
2:45 – 3:00	Leadership Remarks	<i>The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Department of the Interior</i>
3:00	Wrap up and Adjourn	



Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee Meeting ACTION ITEMS Through September 12, 2013

In Progress		
Lead:	Stephen Lowe, USDA	Action#: 20130319-01
Action:	A small work group of Steering Committee members will be formed to coordinate with OMB RMOs on budget coordination regarding geospatial data investments. Mr. Stephen Lowe (USDA) will lead this work group, along with participation from Mr. Joe Klimavicz (NOAA) and Mr. Dan Cotter (DHS).	
Contact:	Stephen Lowe, USDA, Stephen.Lowe@ocio.usda.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130319-02
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to contact Mr. Dan Cotter and Mr. Ivan DeLoatch with ideas or assistance regarding the development of the NSDI Strategic Plan.	
Contact:	Dan Cotter, DHS, daniel.cotter@hq.dhs.gov ; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
In Progress		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130319-03
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to contact Mr. Adrian Gardner and Mr. Ivan DeLoatch with ideas or assistance regarding the development of the A-16 Implementation Plan.	
Contact:	Adrian Gardner, NASA, adrian.gardner@nasa.gov ; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130613-01
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to provide their feedback on the first draft of the NSDI Strategic Plan by June 24, 2013.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130613-02
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to ensure that responses to the Presidential Management Council memorandum that was distributed to agency Deputy Secretaries are provided by the June 20, 2013 deadline.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
In Progress		

Lead:	Robert Austin, NGAC Chair	Action#: 20130613-03
Action:	Robert Austin will have a discussion with Ivan DeLoatch, Jerry Johnston, Dan Cotter and Scott Bernard regarding the next steps to be taken by NGAC on the emergency/first responder issue.	
Contact:	Robert Austin, NGAC Chair, Robert.Austin@tampagov.net	
Resolution/ Response:	The FGDC Executive Committee met with a representative of the FirstNet program. Discussions on how to proceed are ongoing. There will be a follow-up discussion on determining how to incorporate this topic as a potential study question on the FGDC guidance to NGAC.	
In Progress		
Lead:	FGDC Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130912-01
Action:	FGDC Steering Committee members are asked to encourage the Theme Leads and other representatives from their agencies to participate in reviewing the A-16 Implementation Plan. Participants should contact Adrian Gardner.	
Contact:	Adrian Gardner, NASA, adrian.gardner@nasa.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
In Progress		
Lead:	FGDC Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130912-02
Action:	FGDC Steering Committee members whose agencies have outstanding funding agreements for the Geospatial Platform are asked to sign and return those to the FGDC Secretariat as soon as possible.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		



Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee Meeting MEETING MINUTES September 12, 2013

*Non-voting members denoted with an asterisk**

*Quorum = 2/3 of voting members. Voting members = 25 **Quorum**
= 16*

✓	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization	✓	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization
x	Anne Castle	FGDC Chair/ Department of Interior		Dat Tran	Department of Veterans Affairs
x	Scott Bernard	FGDC Vice Chair/ Office of Management and Budget		Harvey Simon	Environmental Protection Agency
x	Stephen Lowe	Department of Agriculture		Julius Knapp*	Federal Communications Commission*
	Joseph Klimavicz	Department of Commerce	x	Angela Smith	General Services Administration
	Michele Motsko	Department of Defense		Ralph Ehrenberg	Library of Congress
	James Dalton*	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*	x	Adrian Gardner	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
	Jack Buckley	Department of Education		Paul Wester	National Archives and Records Administration
	TheAnne Gordon	Department of Energy		VACANT*	National Capital Planning Commission*
x	Keith Tucker	Department of Health and Human Services		VACANT	National Science Foundation
x	Dan Cotter	Department of Homeland Security		Darren Ash	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
x	Jean Lin Pao	Department of Housing and Urban Development		VACANT	Office of Personnel Management
x	Jerry Johnston	Department of Interior		Deborah Anderson	Small Business Administration
	Nick Loulou	Department of Justice		VACANT	Smithsonian Institution
	Holly Donnelly	Department of Labor	x	Lew Sanford	Social Security Administration
	Cecelia Henderson	Department of State		Roy Teal	Tennessee Valley Authority
	Patricia Hu	Department of Transportation		Carrie Stokes	U.S. Agency for International Development
	Jimmy Amoaka-Atta	Department of Treasury			

√	Steering Committee Alternate Members	Organization	√	Steering Committee Alternate Members	Organization
x	Tony LaVoi	Department of Commerce	x	Tom Garin	Department of Veterans' Affairs
x	Jim Bjostad	National Geospatial- Intelligence Agency		Jim Young	Department of Treasury
x	Wendy Blake-Coleman	Environmental Protection Agency	x	Donald Draper Campbell	Federal Communications Commission
x	Nancy Blyler	Department of Defense/USACE	x	Autumn Wallin	General Services Administration
x	Tai Phan	Department of Education	x	Butch Lazorchak	Library of Congress
x	Teddy Dyer	Department of Energy		Stuart Reiter	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
x	Steve Lewis	Department of Transportation	x	David Timmons	Social Security Administration
	Other Attendees	Organization		Other Attendees	Organization
x	Kaile Bower	Census Bureau	x	Julie Maitra	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Stephen Bryce	Esri	x	Anne O'Connor	Census Bureau
x	Ivan DeLoatch	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	John Palatiello	Management Assocation of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors
x	Erin Engle	Library of Congress	x	Ted Payne	U.S. Department of Agriculture
x	Kevin Gallagher	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Doug Richardson	American Association of Geographers
x	Jennifer Gimbel	Department of Interior	x	Demien Rybock	U.S. Agency for International Development
x	Greg Hanks	Census Bureau	x	Ken Shaffer	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Tiffany Holland	U.S. Agency for International Development	x	Vaishal Sheth	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Sally Jewell	Department of the Interior	x	Jon Sperling	Department of Housing and Urban Development
x	Betsy Kannalley	U.S. Forest Service	x	Tim Trainor	Census Bureau
x	Michel Kareis	General Services Administration	x	Gita Urban-Mathieux	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	John Kim	Department of Labor	x	Dick Vraga	U.S. Geological Survey
x	Lynda Liptrap	Census Bureau	x	Laura Waggoner	Census Bureau
x	Arista Maher	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Carl Zulick	U.S. Forest Service
x	John Mahoney	FGDC Office of the Secretariat			

Welcome and Introductory Remarks/Leadership Update - Anne Castle, DOI, Chair

Ms. Anne Castle, FGDC Chair and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior (DOI), called the meeting to order and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves. Ms. Castle reviewed the agenda then asked Steering Committee members whether there are any proposed revisions to the June 2013 Steering Committee minutes. A motion for a vote on approving the minutes was called.

DECISION: The June 2013 Steering Committee meeting minutes were approved by the members.

Ms. Castle briefly summarized Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's priorities, including her emphasis on the use of geospatial information as key to developing a landscape-level understanding of the physical environment and relational impacts that inform policy and decisions aimed at effective management and utilization of our nation's resources. She noted that Secretary Jewell would be attending the meeting later in the afternoon to speak in more detail about these priorities. Ms. Castle also praised the progress on the NSDI Strategic Plan, Geospatial Platform, and other initiatives of the FGDC to further the goals of maximizing efficiency in and reducing duplication in geospatial investments.

NSDI Strategic Plan – Dan Cotter, DHS

Mr. Dan Cotter provided an overview of the NSDI Strategic Plan, which is being developed with the intention of creating a concise, updated strategy to guide the Federal government's activities toward the further advancement of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). According to its defined scope, the Strategic Plan will: validate and build consensus around a shared vision of the NSDI; define the role of the Federal government and non-Federal partners; identify a small set of strategic goals, informed by the geospatial community, for the Federal government to pursue in the next three years; and develop follow-up implementation plans and performance measures to achieve these goals.

The project team and partners were reviewed, including the roles of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), the FGDC Executive Committee (ExCom), and the FGDC Coordination Group (CG), as well as the roles of non-Federal partners. In April 2013, the FGDC asked NGAC for their input on a shared vision of the NSDI, the roles of Federal and non-Federal stakeholders, and identification of key external factors and trends in the geospatial community that could affect the development of the NSDI in the future. NGAC subcommittees met during the April/May 2013 timeframe to discuss these issues, reporting back on their progress at the June 2013 NGAC and Steering Committee meetings. Following those meetings, a second NSDI Leaders' Forum was held (June 19), which provided additional comments from stakeholders that were incorporated into the version 2 draft of the Strategic Plan document. This draft was distributed for public comment on July 31, with a deadline of August 21.

There was excellent feedback on the version 2 draft document, including 136 individual comments received from 28 different groups and individuals. Geospatial organizations such as NSGIC, MAPPS, and URISA provided detailed comments. Overall, the feedback was positive in nature, including support for the Plan in a broad sense, and appreciation for the FGDC's outreach efforts. There were many constructive comments on how to improve the draft document. For example, Bill Burgess (NSGIC) commented that governance is one issue that may need to be addressed (whether there should be a Federal GIO, and what the role for FGDC should be). Other commenters addressed the perceived Federal-centric nature of the Plan; the level of detail regarding the interaction between Federal and non-Federal partners; the need for better description of roles of the non-Federal sector; concerns with associating geospatial activities with IT operations; concerns with geolocation privacy issues; and the level of detail on implementation and metrics. The latter four items were discussed at the third NSDI Leaders' Forum, held on August 26. All of the comments are being adjudicated as part of the review process for the next iteration of the Strategic Plan.

At their September 4-5 meeting, the NGAC adopted a resolution supporting the revised version of the NSDI Strategic Plan, encouraging the FGDC to finalize the Plan and take steps to begin implementation, and noting that the NGAC would be pleased to provide additional feedback on the implementation phase of the plan.

The next steps on the NSDI Strategic Plan are to continue to adjudicate the comments received in order to prepare the final draft (version 3), which will be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval and NGAC for endorsement in the November/December 2013 timeframe. Subsequently, the Executive Committee will oversee the development for project plans for goals and objectives in the plan.

An opportunity for questions and comments was afforded the Steering Committee members and other attendees. Mr. Stephen Lowe (USDA) commented that the NGAC had a great deal of deliberation on the NSDI Strategic

Plan at their September meeting, culminating in their resolution of support. Ms. Anne Castle asked whether there has been a discussion of performance measures and metrics. Mr. Cotter responded that performance information will be addressed in greater detail in the implementation plans. Ms. Castle stated that there has been a great deal of activity on the NSDI Strategic Plan, and that she is pleased to see the level of progress.

A-16 Implementation Plan – Adrian Gardner, NASA

Mr. Adrian Gardner provided an overview of the progress of the OMB Circular A-16 Implementation Plan, which aims to improve coordination and reduce duplication among data themes. The background of the GAO report that was issued in November 2012 was given, including the three recommendations issued for action by the FGDC, as well as FGDC Chair Anne Castle's memorandum sent to FGDC agencies encouraging them to be responsive to those actions. The GAO recommendation to FGDC states the need for the development of a plan (including a timeframe) to facilitate the implementation of OMB's portfolio management guidance. The memorandum to agencies was sent on June 7, and it asked them to identify Theme Leads, Executive Champions, and other points of contact for each FGDC member agency. Following that, an initial draft of the implementation plan was developed, and is still in progress. The draft will be discussed at the next Theme Leads meeting. There are still some outstanding points of contact that need to be identified by agencies.

The A-16 Implementation Plan is aligned with the NSDI Strategic Plan actions. Part of the Implementation Plan will compare the theme datasets with those registered with Data.gov and the Geospatial Platform catalog. We also need to work with the Theme Leads to get good "buy-in" and to validate the dataset inventory. A Theme Leads community is being launched on the Geospatial Platform. Other components of the Implementation Plan that need to be developed include a high-level guidance document for Theme Leads with definitions and lessons learned, as well as a dashboard, tools, and theme communities on the Geospatial Platform. In short, we need to be able to tell a story that is measurable and visible to the geospatial community.

The schedule for the development of the A-16 Implementation Plan was shown. The team plans on distributing the first draft of the Implementation Plan to the Theme Leads and agency representatives in late September 2013. SAOGIs need to assist in getting involvement from their agency representatives in reviewing the draft. During the September 23-27 time frame, Theme Leads and agency representatives will meet to refine the draft, with a target of October 4-25 for circulating the draft to Steering Committee, Coordination Group, Executive Committee, and NGAC for review and comment. During the last week of October, Theme Leads and agency representatives will be asked to assist in adjudicating comments and developing a working final draft document.

ACTION: FGDC Steering Committee members are asked to encourage the Theme Leads and other representatives from their agencies to participate in reviewing the A-16 Implementation Plan. Participants should contact Adrian Gardner.

The outline for the A-16 Implementation Plan was shown. The Plan describes the portfolio management approach, including identifying resources needed and understanding timelines. Implementation processes will highlight issues between and among datasets. The outline will tie these efforts with national policy priorities and initiatives.

The Steering Committee members were given an opportunity for questions and comments. Ms. Castle stated that she believes there is a close relationship between A-16 and the direction in the President's Management Agenda. She asked whether Mr. Gardner could offer his thoughts on this. Mr. Gardner said that he believes that the strategy is living, as priorities change from administration to administration; however, there remains a balancing need to have well-defined priorities that match with specific guidance as well. Mr. Kevin Gallagher (USGS) stated that within the context of the GAO recommendations, coordination is a priority; how does A-16 tie to this? Mr. Gardner responded that the portfolio highlights major gaps and duplication in A-16 themes and datasets. Since we currently do not have an accurate picture of how much the Federal government is spending on data across agencies, the A-16 Implementation Plan will allow for better coordination and less duplication. Ms. Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA) stated that in the process of developing A-16 themes, they have identified critical

data assets within critical business areas. Mr. Gallagher asked if agencies have the resources it takes to live up to this commitment? Mr. Ivan DeLoatch responded that this is why it is very important to have the Steering Committee's participation on this. There is an opportunity to expose which assets we have and which we do not have, as well as to define what should be included in the portfolio. It also presents an opportunity to decide what can provide the most holistic benefit, and what are the baseline datasets for the product all agencies can utilize to support mission needs. This Implementation Plan will require us to define implementation steps. The Geospatial Platform will be the underpinning for this. Mr. Stephen Lowe (USDA) spoke about the need to "embrace the disruptions" such as sequestration to preclude them from hindering the effort to create the Implementation Plan.

HIFLD Proposal (FGDC Alignment/Infrastructure Data) – Dan Cotter, DHS

Mr. Dan Cotter (DHS) gave a brief overview of a proposal to align the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) Working Group with the FGDC and its activities.

HIFLD supports the objectives of partnership-building and best available, useful data. These are shared goals of HIFLD members and FGDC members, so alignment of the two bodies makes sense. While there is a strong homeland security emphasis, the HIFLD dataset has ended up being a common operational dataset which is shared widely around the community for a variety of purposes. Certain aspects of the HIFLD dataset are in the public domain. It was noted that the HIFLD Working Group has over 5,860 members, representing the 14 executive departments, 98 agencies, 53 states and territories, and more than 700 private sector affiliates.

HIFLD data sharing efforts have been ongoing for over a decade, resulting in a common operating dataset. Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) product lines were reviewed, including vector, elevation, and imagery. Mr. Cotter highlighted the richness of the data sets, and their usefulness in expediting readiness, response, and recovery in the event of a national disaster. HIFLD supports national directives for operations and critical infrastructure using the best available data. Furthermore, HIFLD supports priorities and initiatives that the geospatial community is putting forward, such as the A-16 Implementation Plan and NSDI Strategic Plan.

A diagram of the national geospatial policy landscape was shown, displaying HIFLD's interconnectedness with the geospatial interoperability architecture, the Homeland Security Concept of Operations (ConOps), FGDC initiatives, and various laws and policies. Since Federal partners contribute to the A-16 efforts and complement them as well, the recommendation is to develop a charter that formalizes the relationship between HIFLD and the FGDC. A proposed diagram of the FGDC structure with inclusion of HIFLD was shown.

The Steering Committee members were asked to engage in discussion to provide their thoughts on the recommendation. Mr. Jim Bjostad (NGA) stated that he believed this proposal is the next step in the evolution of data, and supports the efforts to move forward with the proposal. Data needs to be more widespread and available. In some cases, agencies do not know that certain data exists. This robust database will be essential to these efforts. Ms. Castle asked the Steering Committee members whether they felt this proposal is a good idea, and the consensus was that they support it.

DECISION: Steering Committee members support the proposal to align HIFLD with the FGDC.

Mr. DeLoatch stated that the next step is for the HIFLD representatives to work with the FGDC on creating a charter by November 1. Following this, they plan on sharing it with the Executive Committee.

Governmental Units and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Report – Tim Trainor, Census Bureau

Mr. Tim Trainor gave a report on the Governmental Units and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries A-16 Data Theme, as well as the concept of a national address database.

Boundaries are defined in terms of legal, statistical, and administrative boundaries. Uses of these boundaries include governance and general provision of services (e.g., states, counties); provision of statistical data,

including census tracts, census blocks, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas; and administrative boundaries, including Congressional Districts, school districts, and fire districts.

The agency lead for this theme is the Census Bureau. The theme lead is Ms. Lynda Liptrap. Mr. Trainor serves as the Executive Champion. Various boundary data assets have different uses. Examples of other boundaries under the theme were shown. Census controls and compiles many of them, with some exceptions. The A-16 data set requirements for this theme have been met, as there are web services for data access to Census Bureau products (via TIGERWeb), and theme development has been coordinated with the National Boundary Group (NBG), who collects the data and engages in other boundary activities. The NBG is becoming a working group under the FGDC structure. The purpose of this move is to establish collaboration of federal boundary efforts for A-16 data sets, and for all Federal agencies to maintain current, accurate, consistent, accessible, and integratable boundary data sets. The group is co-chaired by USGS and the Census Bureau. The Federal Lands Subgroup is a part of this, as their objective is to develop a data standard and the organizational strategies for Federally-owned lands, to publish an aggregated Federal lands database, complete a paired agency boundary adjudication effort, review data standards, and guide the workflow and contacts for Federally-owned lands.

The National Address Database (NAD)—a proposal to create and maintain a national database of addresses for use across all levels of government – was described. The NGAC developed a white paper on this topic in response to FGDC guidance, and Census assisted in providing Federal perspectives.. Census is legally restricted from sharing address data, which presents a significant challenge to building a collaborative database. The intention of a National Address Database is to provide a new opportunity for shared services, and integrate address information from Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, pooling resources to effectively manage address information at a single point. The NAD will decouple data, process, and business rules from hardware devices and organizations to ensure common standards that empower openness and accessibility. Partners will include Federal, state, local, and tribal government data providers, and commercial data will be used where appropriate. The NAD is consistent with the Federal Digital Government strategy, in that it is information-centric, is a shared platform, is customer-centric, and provides security and privacy of data. The NAD, as envisioned, would comply with various Presidential directives, including Executive Order 12906, OMB Circular A-16, the Federal Information Technology Shared Services Strategy, and the Open Government Directive.

The members were allowed time for questions and comments on Mr. Trainor's presentation. Mr. Scott Bernard (OMB) asked about personally-identifiable information (PII) in the context of a National Address Database. Mr. Trainor responded that they have had policy experts and the general counsel's office review the proposed approach and they expressed no concerns with the current approach. Mr. Bernard commented that he believes we need to think more about how we handle PII and that it would be worthwhile to further investigate this issue. Mr. Donald Campbell (FCC) stated that various agencies have data that includes PII. Some agencies have restrictions on the data, while others are able to make them publically available. He asked how we plan on reconciling these discrepancies. Mr. Bernard responded that he believes this is a sensitivity-of-data question that should be explored further. Other Steering Committee members agreed with these comments and the need to explore the issue in further detail.

Geospatial Platform – Jerry Johnston, DOI

Dr. Jerry Johnston gave an update on recent activities and status of the Geospatial Platform initiative.

The NGAC Geospatial Platform Subcommittee has been helpful in providing feedback on technical, administrative, and governance-related topics on the Geospatial Platform, as well as Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) Public-Private Partnerships. One of the more recent developments in the evolution of the Platform has been the addition and refinement of the search/catalog component, which has been completed using the Data.gov catalog as a service. They are not using separate geospatial catalogs any longer. Dr. Johnston noted that they are grateful to the Data.gov team for their support. They are continuing to enhance search functionality, including integrating geospatial search to make it easier for people to find data. DOI is in the process of awarding a large IDIQ contract for foundational cloud services.

Enhancements to the website were made in August 2013. The next substantial release is scheduled for September, where users will be able to utilize login capabilities, there will be fixes to the forums, blogs, etc., and there will be a content style updates. Various look and feel enhancements will take place in late September, followed by capabilities for community self-service content creation and editing and user subscriptions to private communities in mid-October. Marketplace functionality is being developed throughout September, with continuous registration of agencies' planned acquisitions being added as available.

Steering Committee members were given an opportunity to ask questions about the Platform's progress. Mr. Stephen Lowe (USDA) asked whether there are any trends in demands for specific services. Dr. Johnston responded that it is too early to say, but there is huge demand for communities. Stakeholders are also asking for data hosting requirements for the future, but we need to get the critical services on board first. Mr. Scott Bernard stated that he and Dr. Johnston participated in the Federal-wide shared services conference earlier in the day, and that there were some interesting discussions on full mission support for shared services. It was mentioned that there are still outstanding GeoLoB/GeoPlatform funding agreements that need to be completed.

ACTION: FGDC Steering Committee members whose agencies have outstanding funding agreements for the Geospatial Platform are asked to sign and return those to the FGDC Secretariat as soon as possible.

NGAC Meeting Summary – Jerry Johnston, Vice Chair, NGAC

Dr. Jerry Johnston provided a summary of the NGAC meetings held on September 4-5, 2013. He noted that several of the charter members of the NGAC, who will be leaving the committee at the end of the year, were recognized at the meeting. Ms. Anne Castle led a leadership dialogue about Department of Interior activities and opportunities for NGAC discussion and feedback. Mr. Ivan DeLoatch provided an FGDC update. Dr. Johnston gave a briefing on the status of the Geospatial Platform, and there were also extensive discussions on the NSDI Strategic Plan. Additionally, the Landsat Advisory Group discussed progress on their study questions. There was also a presentation on the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), as well as additional discussion on potential study topics for the NGAC.

The actions, decisions, and outcomes from the meeting were discussed. Several endorsements and recommendations were made. The NGAC adopted a resolution regarding the NSDI Strategic Plan, which stated, *"The NGAC supports the revised version of the draft NSDI Strategic Plan and encourages the FGDC to finalize the plan and take action to actively begin implementation. The NGAC welcomes additional opportunities to provide input and feedback on the implementation phase of the strategic plan."* The National Address Database was a topic about which NGAC members were enthusiastic. They adopted a resolution reiterating strong support for a NAD, and another resolution supporting Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's priority for the use of geospatial technology to promote and support better landscape-level understanding within the Department of Interior and among its network of partner organizations.

There was discussion on future study topics, including the National Address Database, geospatial education and workforce development, and geolocation privacy. The FGDC will review and refine the proposed study questions and will provide additional guidance to the NGAC.

FGDC has convened an interagency panel to review the 2013 nominations for appointment to the NGAC and develop recommendations to the Office of the Secretary of DOI. The announcement of the new appointments is expected in December 2013.

The next NGAC meeting is expected to take place in early December 2013.

Leadership Remarks - The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Department of the Interior

Ms. Castle introduced Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who joined the Steering Committee meeting to provide remarks on her priorities and recognize the valuable role of the FGDC in supporting these. Ms. Castle noted that Secretary Jewell was trained as a petroleum engineer and worked in the banking industry prior to her tenure as the chief executive of REI, Inc. Ms. Castle stated that Secretary Jewell has energized and inspired the Department since her appointment, and has set several Departmental priorities, one of which is utilizing geospatial information to better inform decisions and provide a landscape-level understanding of our environment.

Secretary Jewell thanked the Steering Committee members for serving on this body. She noted that there is a need to better market the extent of Federal government activities, stating that, for example, online maps should acknowledge “USGS” data in order to help identify the work this community does. She stated that a couple of months ago, she outlined her priorities for DOI. There are three large trends that were addressed in these priorities: constrained federal resources, a generational transformation in workforce, and climate change. Speaking to the first trend, she stated that at the President’s Cabinet meeting earlier in the day, there was discussion about how we can spend Federal funds more wisely by working across agencies to accomplish goals. On the second trend, there is a generational transformation going on, with many younger people struggling to find jobs, and a number of retirees coming soon. The third trend, climate change, is very clearly ongoing. We have to adapt for the benefit of all species to deal with fire, flood, drought, and other challenges. The Secretary described her recent visit to the Marshall Islands to look at coastal erosion.

Within her six priorities, Secretary Jewell noted that one key priority is developing a landscape-level understanding of the world around us. We are in a great position because of the Geospatial Platform, our computing capacity, and other technological advancements, with many credible data points that we can put into a database to begin to look at the country on a landscape level. For instance, knowing critical bird migration patterns can help us know where to put wind farms to minimize their impacts on bird migrations. Knowing where our minerals are located in relation to animal habitats enables us to focus development in areas where habitats are not affected. This Committee’s work with the Geospatial Platform is an important basis for this understanding. It is important that the process remains sound. The FGDC has performed a huge service to this nation, its economy, and future generations. She thanked the FGDC for stepping up, and noted that she is a big fan of maps. She emphasized the importance of knowing exactly what is happening and why, which is something this data can tell us.

The Steering Committee members were given an opportunity to ask questions of the Secretary. Mr. Stephen Lowe (USDA) asked about Secretary Jewell’s former experience in commercial banking, and where this could possibly be leveraged in other areas. Secretary Jewell responded that what the private sector wants is risk management to a certain reasonable degree. They do not want uncertainty. This gives us an opportunity to address that. For instance, they might be interested in areas ripe for development vs. communities on a critical watershed or toxic wastelands. Since there is so much information to be shared, we can facilitate this development. It is also critical that we think about how renewable energy can be used. Understanding the landscape gives companies the best information to make decisions.

Mr. Dan Cotter (DHS) asked about climate change and what this community can do to help. Secretary Jewell discussed the coastal plain of Alaska in response to this question. She noted that a geospatial database can show us in real time what is happening to the coastline. Geospatial data can show us impacts utilizing imagery from Landsat. Because of the geospatial community, we had really good data prior to and after Hurricane Sandy. Following Sandy, we can put to use some of the litigation funds to figure out what happened to the coastline and other areas and make better decisions in rebuilding. Showing data can speak volumes, and can provide a better picture of what worked and what didn’t.

Mr. Adrian Gardner (NASA) asked Secretary Jewell how the geospatial community can bolster its workforce. Secretary Jewell re-emphasized the marketing component she mentioned earlier. For example, instead of thinking of solely of Google as a map provider, people should also think of USGS and NASA as providers of

critical information such as Landsat data. Furthermore, engaging young people in “citizen science” can help. There are many untapped opportunities in using optical recognition technologies, mobile devices, and the gaming industry to help the next generation become active contributors to geospatial data and technology. Harnessing young people’s interests in computer gaming can be used to build games or applications for identifying plant and animal species and using optical recognition to tag locations. Secretary Jewell spoke with the game developers of World of Warcraft, as well as Microsoft, and other companies to determine where opportunities like this might exist. Like it or not, the gaming industry is winning the battle for young peoples’ minds, but it has consequences, like disconnecting them from other things. Creating games with geospatial and environmental focuses can be a huge opportunity to engage kids in citizen science.

Ms. Castle thanked Secretary Jewell for her interest and enthusiasm in the FGDC and its geospatial activities. Secretary Jewell asked the FGDC to let her know how she can help, and encouraged them to think about the next generation and what they can do about climate change.

Wrap-Up Discussion – Anne Castle, DOI

Ms. Castle reviewed the major actions and decisions from the meeting, discussed next steps, and adjourned the meeting.

Adjourn